

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 DODE-00 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 211926Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5785

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1487

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR; TD

SUBJECT: ARA NARCOTICS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 227838

1. WE ENDORSE PROPOSED ATTENTION TO LONG-RANGE GOALS. AS FAR AS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CONCERNED, OUR INPUT MAY BE MORE LIMITED THAN THAT OF MANY POSTS.

2. SINCE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IS SIGNIFICANT MARKET OR TRANSIT POINT FOR HARD DRUGS, EMBASSY'S CHIEF GOAL HERE IS TO KEEP POLICE, CUSTOMS AND PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES ALERT TO POSSIBILITY SITUATION MIGHT CHANGE AS HARD DRUG MOVERS ARE DRIVEN OUT OF TRADITIONAL MARKETS AND SMUGGLING ROUTES. IN VIEW SUCCESS LOCAL SOFT DRUG (CHIEFLY MARIHUANA) SMUGGLERS HAVE HAD HERE IN EVADING LAW, POSSIBILITY EXISTS HARD DRUG MOVERS MIGHT CHOOSE TO USE THESE TESTED AND SUCCESSFUL SMUGGLING CHANNELS TO MOVE HEROIN OR COCAIN.

3. IN VIEW LIMITED EXPERIENCE FACTOR HERE, ONLY OBSERVATIONS NOTED FOR POSSIBLE GENERAL CONSIDERATION AT CONFERENCE ARE FOLLOWING:

A. POLICE NARCOTICS SQUADS REQUIRE PERIODIC SHAKING UP TO AVOID PITFALL OF FOLLOWING ROUTINE INVESTIGATORY PRACTICES WHICH ARE DETECTABLE BY DRUG MOVERS, WHO CAN THEN TAKE EVASIVE

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ACTION.

B. QIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES ARE MORE MOTIVATED AND ARTICULATE IN WARNING PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS OF DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE THAN OTHER RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES SUCH AS POLICE OR CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.

4. EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR PLANS RECOMMEND AT THIS CONFERENCE THAT BETTER COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATIONS BE ENCOURAGED BETWEEN CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, GUYANA AND SURINAM SO THAT CUSTOMS OFFICIALS HERE MIGHT BE ALERTED TO PRESENCE IN TRINIDADIAN WATERS OF SMALL VESSELS SUSPECTED OF SMUGGLING DRUGS OR OTHER CONTRABAND. LIMITED MANPOWER OF LOCAL CUSTOMS PROHIBITS SPOT CHECKS OF MORE THAN SMALL PERCENTAGE OF SMALL CRAFT ENTERING AND LEAVING TRINIDAD WATERS. IF ALERTED, CUSTOMS COULD SEARCH SPECIFIC SUSPECTED VESSELS, HOWEVER, AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO EXTEND SUCH COOPERATION ON RECIPROCAL BASIS TO OTHER NEARBY COUNTRIES.
MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

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